

SELECTIONS
FROM THE
VERNACULAR NEWSPAPERS

PUBLISHED IN THE
PUNJAB, NORTH-WESTERN PROVINCES, OUDH,

AND THE
CENTRAL PROVINCES,

Received from the 8th to the 14th of September, 1869.

THE *Najm-ool Ukhbar* of the 1st of September alludes to "the Committee" (Educational?) of Madras having adopted the plan of not only examining students in writing, but of hearing them recite, &c., by which their powers of rhetoric, &c., will be tested; and the editor thinks the true estimate of the progress made will become known. It is recommended that this example should be followed in other parts of India.

News is said to have been received *via* Balkh from Bokhara to the effect that the Russians have demanded from the King of Bokhara, by way of pledge, one of his sons and three officers of rank, to be retained by them until the tax be paid; and that the king, seeing nothing else left for him, had made them over to the Russian General. "It is said that as the British Government sent for the Ameer of Cabul into their territories, the Russian Government intend to send for the King of Bokhara, and make him give a new treaty, by means of which the people of Bokhara may be allowed to dwell in peace." Letters from Bokhara mention that it is the real intention of the Russians to side with, and aid the king, and that this has been brought about solely by the Ameer of Cabul's visit to Hindoestan. A conversation took place between the Russian General and the King of Bokhara

concerning the boundary of Turkistan. The General was of opinion that it is *bagjah* and *ghurdeen dewar*; and that from these places up to the River Amoo the country belongs to Bokhara. It was also represented that the Affghans had wrested it from the king. The king replied,—“The Affghans are now powerful,” and added “that he could not go to war with them.”

The *Rohilcund Ukhbar* of the 4th of September, noticing the sanction of a grant of Rs. 50,000 for the purchase of grain for the famine-stricken to the district of Yealimpore, expresses a hope that the same measure of relief may be extended to the North-West Provinces, the Punjab, and Oudh, as he is sure that the Government of Hind will also give aid to these Provinces.

The *Malwa Ukhbar* of the 1st of September, and the *Unjmun Hind* of the 4th, do not call for special notice.

The *Lawrence Gazette* of the 6th of September publishes an article headed “Scarcity of grain, and its real cause.” The writer says that various reasons have already been given for this scarcity,—some are of opinion that it is due to the want of rain, others that a combination among the grain-dealers is the cause; while some say that it is through the non-interference and negligence of Government.

“In short,” says the writer, “all have their own ideas upon the subject, and all seems one case of confusion and perplexity.” The writer proceeds to say that no one has hit upon the real cause, and that as it is the duty of editors to give it, he now does so. After giving the amount of the population of British India at 15 crores, and the quantity of grain they—independent of their animals—consume, he goes on to show that the grain cultivation is not sufficient to meet the demand; that during half the year there is one season for wheat; that “the shares of the earth’s region are so divided that there is but one harvest in the twelve months; and that when the seasons are ever so favourable very little grain is sown;

but in its place sugarcane and indigo are largely cultivated. He proceeds to say, that in a very small neck of land, the village of Dhasna, there are no less than four indigo factories, with a prospect of their number increasing. In fact, he endeavours to show that the superior pecuniary advantages derived from the cultivation of sugarcane, indigo, and cotton, interfere with the grain produce; and, moreover, that the cultivation of indigo gives profits for three seasons in succession, while the land becomes impoverished and useless for sowing grain. He goes on to say,—“ Besides this, the profits on the produce of indigo and sugar cultivation are more advantageous to the cultivators, because the *tukavi* collections, in portions of lands sown separately, is *musawi*, or equal, and thus everybody looks to his own profit. It is so in the Boolundshuhur and Allygurh Districts, and no wonder therefore that the same system rules elsewhere. Now it ought to be considered, that when the population number so much, and the grain produce is insufficient, what is the best way to avoid the inevitable consequences. There can be no doubt that want of rain is the great cause of scarcity; but where canals and other means of artificial irrigation exist, this cannot be considered the cause—so that if scarcity should result in places so situated it must be accidental and only temporary. The great cause of a general scarcity is therefore that grain is not cultivated more extensively.” The writer does not consider the grain-dealers or the Government to blame. He thinks non-interference with the grain-dealers on the part of Government the best thing to observe: “because if Government was to interfere, and enforce a cheaper rate, independent of the supply of grain being stopped, the stores would very soon be exhausted, and the inevitable result would be that the world would die of starvation.” He illustrates his argument by stating that if the owner of a ship provisions his vessel full of passengers with a month’s supply, and the Captain uses it all up in 15 days, the people on board must starve for the remaining 15 days. He then goes on to say,—“Enough,

when it is satisfactorily proved that the evils of famine are brought about by the covetousness of the landholders, there is nothing left to be done but to increase the tax upon indigo and sugar cultivation." The writer goes on to explain that he has no wish to prevent the cultivation of these useful articles; but that, as the population increases, grain should be more extensively cultivated. He considers the soil of Hindoostan, assisted by canals, &c., most fruitful; that everything will grow in it, but that people look more to their own immediate profits than to the ultimate good of their fellow-creatures and the country; and he further asserts, that unless Government increases the revenue on the cultivation of indigo and sugarcane land, the avarice of the landholders will prevail, the produce of grain decrease, and starvation be the result. "Government will then," he says, "have to bear the pain: because the English Government is more considerate and watchful over the interests of its people than former kings were." Allusion is made to the charges preferred against General Reynell Taylor, Commissioner of the Sirhind Division, and the enquiry ordered by the Governor-General into them. The editor is of opinion that Punjab officials ought not to be selected for this purpose, as they might stand in awe of the Agent and the Lieutenant-Governor, and he thus influenced in the matter.

The *Sholatoor* of the 7th of September publishes the following under the heading "Useless Seizure." "It is said that by order of the Punjab authorities a cholera camp has been formed at the River Beas on the Umritsur side, to which some 1,000 or 1,200 sick persons are forced, and kept there: as, until orders are passed, not one of them can move thence. These poor people have neither food nor medicine given them, nor is there any shelter for them. In the day time they suffer from the heat of the sun, in the night time from the damp dew. We are sure that the Lieutenant-Governor of the Punjab will very soon put a stop to this tyranny."

The *Ukmlool Ukhbar* of the 8th of September does not require special notice.

The *Neyar Akbar Ukhbar* of the 2nd September extracts at length from the English newspapers concerning the view in Parliament of Central Asian affairs. From the *Ruthan Prakash* (Ruttam), the opinions of Mr. Eastwick, Sir Charles Wingfield, Sir H. Rawlinson, Lord Lawrence, and other authorities, are quoted, the writer concluding as follows:—"Now, in the British Parliament, these arguments are going on, and here in Cabul the signs of disturbances appear to be increasing. Those who have perused the *Ruthan Prakash* with attention will be astonished to learn that the Ameer Sher Ali has been shot at, and Ismael Khan, by whose means Cabul fell to the lot of the Ameer, and whom this Chief imprisoned and sent into English territory, or under English rule, has fled, and is perhaps at Swat.

Heerat, too, has gone out of the hands of the Cabul ones. The son of the King of Bokhara having fallen out with his father has come towards Affghanistan, and there will probably be fights ere long at Turkistan and Candahar, led by Sirdar Abdul Rhyman Khan. The Ameer Shere Ali is confiscating the jagheers of his Sirdars, while among his sons envy and malice is the order and power of the day. The Russian force is not very quiet. In short, various reports are gathering from all sides, which are not cheering to the heart; without doubt ere long there will be a great war in Cabul, and he to whom God will give will be the one to receive. The *Friend of India* refuses to believe the fact that the Ameer has been shot at; but the *Delhi Gazette* has published it with great confidence, because the correspondent of the latter paper is at Cabul, and as the condition of that place is doubtless bad, we do not hesitate to place reliance on the statement."

The *Nusseem Jounpore* of the 6th of September, the *Kar-nama Hind* of the same date, the *Oudh Ukhbar* of the 7th, and the *Khair Khwah Punjab* of the 11th, do not require

particular notice. The latter paper, referring to the late Viceroy Sir John Lawrence having twice visited Syud Ahmed Khan Bahadoor at his residence, says he will "look upon this condescension as the effects of the English climate; as when at Lahore, Sir John used to keep a great club in his hand."

The *Oordoo Delhi Gazette* of the 11th of September, alluding to the state of affairs in Hyderabad Deccan, says that Sir Salar Jung is carrying on the arrangements of this State in a praiseworthy manner. "Some time ago he heard that in consequence of the cultivators having sown their lands with three parts cotton to one of grain, and fearing that this would cause scarcity of the latter, he has passed orders that in future the tax on land, where cotton is sown, will be increased to not less than five rupees per *beegah*." The newswriter adds that if this is true, the revenues of that State will be considerably increased. The writer concludes by stating that this is in a great measure the cause of scarcity of grain, and the cultivators, led away by the inducements held out by those Marwarrees who purchase cotton, enter largely into cotton cultivation, forgetting, or not understanding, that all the benefits they derive from cultivating cotton are nullified by the scarcity and consequent high prices of grain, and their cattle dying off from want of food.

The *Najm-ool Ukhbar* of the 8th of September, under the heading "Delhi," mentions an attempt on the part of the Saraokees to perform their *poojahs* at the temple under the fort, to do which they obtained permission of the officer in command of the garrison; "but," it is added, "the *Vishnoes* got news of it, and represented to the Sudder Officer that a disturbance would ensue if they were not prohibited from performing the ceremony. Orders were therefore at once issued to the *kotwal* to put a stop to it, which was at once done."

The *Punjabee Ukhbar* of the 10th of September, referring to the order prohibiting Government officials from accepting presents from natives, mentions that the Rajah of Ungodie,

in the Madras territory, sent some rare birds as a present to Mr. Sleeman, a Collector of Revenue, who, the moment he saw them, became angry, and determined in his own mind what course to adopt in returning them; but finally he reported the circumstance to Government, and required what course he was to pursue, stating at the same time that baskets of fruit were sent to him, and he received them; but that he accepted no more than these. The Madras Government replied that an officer had no right to receive such gifts as the former, and all the chiefs and *rahees* were to be duly warned against such proceedings; and when they persist in making such presents, all officers should at once refuse to accept them, or anything else beyond fruit and flowers."

The *Mujmool Bharain* of the 2nd of September, and the same paper of the 9th, do not require particular notice. The latter paper, alluding to the supply of arms furnished to the Burmese rebels by a merchant of Rangoon, thinks that merchants ought not to do such things as this; for, although he sold his own goods and got money for them, he ought to have considered the uses to which such goods would be put. The writer is pleased to know that our Government has received information of this, "and the Bengal Government is about to pass orders concerning the sale of arms, to which the attention of merchants, &c., will be directed, &c., &c. With reference to this kind of traffic being of a dangerous character, the writer says,—“The tree which has only lately taken root can be uprooted by one man, but if it is left for some time, it will require a “gardún” (engine for pulling up trees) to uproot it.”

The *Aligurh Institute Gazette* of the 10th of September, the *Kaleid Ummed* of the 4th, and the *Ukhbar Alum* of the 9th, do not require special attention.

The *Moosfed-eol Anam* of the 9th of September, alluding to the state of affairs between the British and the Russian Governments, says that perhaps Mr. Forsyth of Jubbulpore

has been appointed to proceed to the Russian seat of Government—"Darul-khilafat"—to have an interview with the Sardars of that place, returning to Hindoostan via Russia. "This news appears reliable, and Mr. Forsyth will become acquainted with the state of Russia, its future intentions, &c., and the Government of Hind will find out all through him. This gentleman is said to have been there before, and knows something of the state of affairs there."

The *Social Science Congress* of the 10th of September, and the *Educational Gazette* of the same date, do not call for particular notice.

The *Koh-i-Noor* of the 11th of September reports, on the authority of a native correspondent, that at Ghazeeabad on the 4th instant, during a heavy shower of rain, a grain-dealer was observed sprinkling oil about with the object of stopping the rain. The writer adds that this is *one* great charm used to prevent rain from falling.

The *Meerut Gazette* of the 11th of September, and the *Rohikund Ukhbar* of the same date, do not require particular notice.

The *Muir Gazette* does not furnish anything demanding special attention.

The *Ukhbar Benares* of the 1st of September alludes to the good conduct of one Pundit Rugnath Pershad, Inspector of Police, who captured a gang of gamblers and coiners at Benares.

Under the heading "Goorul" the following appears:—"The Thakoor of this place having been tyrannized over by the Agent of Kattiawar, has come over to Poonah, and had an interview with the Governor at that place, before whom he has laid a statement of his grievances, and his case is under enquiry. This Thakoor bears a good character. He has had an interview with the chiefs of this place, and with the European gentlemen—all seem pleased with him."

Complaints are made of the frequency of *dacoits* at Mirzapore; the perpetrators of these outrages are, it is said, never captured; "the murderer of the Jail Darogah has not yet been captured; and the expenses of our Government are uselessly squandered in the paying line;—for what work do the Hookām do here?"

The state of misrule prevailing on the road to Gya is also pointed out, and it is asked why the Government do not look after it, as a road tax is taken by Government from the zemindars. The writer asks,—“Is this justice and law?”

“It is stated that at Benares eight prisoners having escaped by breaking a wall ran away. If this news is correct, well done, those who receive pay so uselessly. By the bravery of those prisoners who escaped rewards will be claimed,” &c., &c.

The *Murdhurmint* of the 6th of September publishes the following:—“It is said that the Maharaja Gaikwar has followed the example of the Maharajah of Jeypore, and has commenced to learn the *Ungraisee nirt* (dance). They say that in this he has produced a good habit for himself. The *Goojratmint Ukhbar* writes against this custom of allowing Maharajahs to go to, and mingle in dances given by English people: “for,” adds the writer, “only the Ungraise or Christian gentlemen will be abashed at this kind of thing, or think shame that such a Chief as the Gaikwar should form one of the number at such assemblies: because such meetings are looked upon as very private by men of such education and rectitude as the *sahiblogues*.”

It is further said that the Maharajah has interfered with the coin of Baroda, having determined to bring into use the Baroda pice at 32 per rupee, which the *Boparees* do not approve of, as they used to be given in exchange at the rate of 41 per rupee, and the result is great loss to the traders there.

The *Jagat Samachar* of the 6th of September does not require particular attention.

The following Vernacular newspapers have been examined
in this report, viz. :-

No.	NAME OF PAPER.	WHERE PUB- LISHED.	DATE.		WHEN RECEIVED.	
			1869.		1869.	
1	Nujm-ool Ukhbar, ...	Meerut, ...	Sept.	1st	Sept.	8th
2	Rohilkund Ukhbar, ...	Moradabad, ...	"	4th	"	8th
3	Malwa Ukhbar, ...	Indore, ...	"	1st	"	9th
4	Unjuman Hind, ...	Lucknow, ...	"	4th	"	9th
5	Lawrence Gazette, ...	Meerut, ...	"	6th	"	10th
6	Sholator, ...	Cawnpore, ...	"	7th	"	10th
7	Ukhil-ool Ukhbar, ...	Delhi, ...	"	8th	"	10th
8	Neyar Akbar Ukhbar, ...	Bijnour, ...	"	2nd	"	11th
9	Nasim Jounpore, ...	Jeunpore, ...	"	6th	"	11th
10	Karnama Hind, ...	Lucknow, ...	"	6th	"	11th
11	Outa Ukhbar, ...	Lucknow, ...	"	7th	"	11th
12	Khair Khwah Punjab, ...	Goojranwalla, ...	(two weeks)		"	11th
13	Gordoo Delhi Gazette, ...	Agra, ...	"	11th	"	11th
14	Nujm-ool Ukhbar, ...	Meerut, ...	"	8th	"	12th
15	Punjabee Ukhbar, ...	Lahore, ...	"	10th	"	12th
16	Mujma-ool Bharain, ...	Loodiana, ...	"	2nd	"	13th
17	Ditto, ...	Ditto, ...	"	9th	"	13th
18	Allygurh Institute Gazette, ...	Allygurh, ...	"	10th	"	13th
19	Kaleid Ummed, ...	Lahore, ...	"	4th	"	14th
20	Ukhbar Alum, ...	Meerut, ...	"	9th	"	14th
21	Moofid-ool Anam, ...	Futtehgurh, ...	"	9th	"	14th
22	Social Science Congress, ...	Jeypore, ...	"	10th	"	14th
23	Educational Gazette, ...	Agra, ...	"	10th	"	14th
24	Koh-i-Noor, ...	Lahore, ...	"	11th	"	14th
25	Meerut Gazette, ...	Meerut, ...	"	11th	"	14th
26	Rohilkund Ukhbar, ...	Moradabad, ...	"	11th	"	14th
27	Muir Gazette, ...	Moozuffernuggur, ...	"	5th	"	8th
28	Ukhbar Benares, ...	Benares, ...	"	1st	"	13th
29	Murdhurmint, ...	Joudhpore, ...	"	6th	"	14th
30	Jagat Samochar, ...	Meerut, ...	"	6th	"	14th

(True translation,)

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DELHI :

Upper India.

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